

**R I C H M O N D S E L E C T B O A R D
R E G U L A R M E E T I N G
J u l y 1 , 2 0 1 3 M I N U T E S**

Members Present: June Heston, Chair; Amy Lord, Vice Chair; Chris Granda; Ashley Lucht; Taylor Yeates (arrived 7:35 PM)

Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Mary Houle; Angela Cote; Donna and Toby Lyons; Ann Cousins; Fran Thomas; Mark Fausel; Maureen Kangley; Jon Kart and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

June Heston called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Heston asked if there were any comments from the public.

Maureen Kangley spoke about Harold Irish's resignation at the last Water Commissioners meeting and said she felt it was a good thing to have dissent and asked if it was a good thing to tell someone how to vote? Mr. Granda said he felt this was directed at him, and said that Mr. Irish listened to the recommendations of the Water Rate Task Force but did not comment about it but voted against their recommendation without saying why. Mr. Granda said he thought that the work of the committee was supported, and members of the Water Commission needed to be willing to contribute to the issues.

2. Items for Discussion with Those Present

Old Round Church Bicentennial

Fran Thomas updated the Selectboard in the Richmond Historical Society's plans for the Round Church Bicentennial. She explained fundraising activities, selling tee shirts, keep-sakes, and other items. On July 26th they would have their "Stars of the Future" concert of young talent, and Tim Whiteford had been working to get students ready for solo performances.

Ms. Thomas also reminded everyone about the festivities on August 9, 10 and closing ceremony on the 11th. She mentioned that for the upcoming July 4th events, the Historical Society parking lot would be closed because it was too wet.

The Selectboard thanked Ms. Thomas and all we excited about the bicentennial.

Planning Commission Appointments

Mark Fausel, Planning Commission Chair, was invited to speak about his ideas on membership. Mr. Fausel said he would like to move the membership back to seven members as soon as possible, and appoint members to fill the positions. He said that he would accept any of the most recent applicants.

Ms. Heston said that Daniel Begins had withdrawn, and this left two candidates for three spots.

Mr. Granda asked why should we change from five to seven at this time? He had concerns about this slowing down the revisions to the floodplain ordinance.

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Mr. Fausel said that in recent discussions the Planning Commission has decided to not move forward on the floodplain regulations yet, and instead they will focus on parking and signage. With a slowdown of the activity he hoped to get volunteers interested and educated. Also, the Town Plan is going to be updated.

Mr. Granda was concerned that the floodplain regulations are slowed down too much. Mr. Fausel said that in their discussions the Planning Commission expressed their interested in a deeper review. He said that a discussion on rolling back to the FEMA minimum requirements was made and some wanted to reach out to folks in the floodplain and understand what their feelings are.

Mr. Granda asked how increasing membership would move it forward faster. Mr. Fausel said that in wouldn't move it faster with either five or seven. The people have concerns, whether or not the regulations go too far beyond the minimums. Mr. Granda said he felt that there was a general call for change but in the past there was no general consensus. Mr. Fausel said he felt that people weren't happy with the existing regulations, but weren't sure how far to roll back the regulations.

Ms. Heston said that she respected that he wanted more voices at the table. Now he has four, with two possibly to serve, so what should we do with the membership?

Ann Cousins asked if another recruitment could be done? The Manager said that the Selectboard could recruit again, however, they said previously that they would select from those that applied, which is what this discussion is centered around.

Jon Kart said that this wasn't just about bodies, but about the qualifications of individuals applying. It is the Selectboard's role to decide who will serve on the Planning Commission. Ms. Heston agreed.

Ms. Lucht said she felt that a five member board would make an easier quorum. Mr. Fausel said it would be easier to have a quorum with seven people.

Ms. Heston said that a quorum wasn't an issue if those appointed were able to attend meetings.

Mr. Granda said that the Selectboard should take its time and interview to fill the vacancy. Ms. Lord agreed that the vacancy on the five member board should be filled now.

Ms. Heston said that the Selectboard has done its due diligence with interviews. There was discussion on how to proceed with appointments and whether or not to increase the Planning Commission membership to seven.

Mr. Fausel expressed his concern that each time someone new came on they would have to start the education and explanations all over again.

Ms. Lucht said that Mr. Fausel knew the candidates and did not have any issues with them, why not appoint them?

Mr. Granda said that the original rationale of the floodplain regulations were pertinent, and this issue has been waiting for too long and shouldn't be hitched to a longer zoning rewrite. This needed to continue with a five member board.

1 Mr. Fausel said that the original game plan was to have them to the Selectboard by now, but the
2 priorities have changed. It doesn't matter if there were five or seven members, the floodplain
3 regulations were not coming out soon.

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5 Mary Houle said she understood it was a Selectboard decision, but the Selectboard also said it would
6 defer to the request of the Planning Commission chair on membership.

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8 After some discussion, Mr. Granda offered a motion to fill the vacancy on the five –member Planning
9 Commission and was seconded by Ms. Lord. Mr. Yeates arrived to the meeting as the vote was called.
10 The motion failed 2-2-1, with Mr. Granda and Ms. Lord voting in the affirmative, Ms. Lucht and Ms.
11 Heston voting against, and Mr. Yeates abstaining.

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13 Ms. Heston said we needed to bring Mr. Yeates up to speed on the issue.

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15 Mr. Fausel reviewed his position on appointments and moving to a seven member Planning
16 Commission. Mr. Granda offered a point of fact, that there were only two candidates and if the board
17 were increased to seven, the Selectboard would still need to recruit to fill the last vacancy. He offered
18 that the Selectboard fill the fifth seat and go to seven at a later time. Mr. Fausel asked to fill two seats.
19 Ms. Heston said that the membership number had to be settled first.

20
21 Mr. Granda offered a motion to increase the membership to seven seats effective July 15, 2013 and
22 was seconded by Ms. Lucht. It was noted that if more applicants were not available on the 15th the
23 Selectboard would be in the same position.

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25 Mary Houle said that if you go to a seven member board and, it would be painful for the Selectboard
26 to appoint her, but the board would have six of seven seats filled.

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28 Ms. Heston called for a vote. The motion failed 2-3 with Mr. Granda, Ms. Lord and Mr. Yeates voting
29 against.

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31 Ms. Lord wanted to keep the membership at five. Ms. Lucht didn't see the point in waiting. Mr.
32 Yeates asked why would we move to seven seats if we don't fill them? Mr. Granda suggested having
33 the public respond.

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35 Donna Lyons offered to volunteer. Ms. Lucht asked if she knew what she was in for, and she said not
36 really, but wants to be involved in the planning of the village.

37
38 Jon Kart said don't box yourself in, if two weeks it isn't enough time to recruit and urged the
39 membership be kept at five.

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41 Mr. Fausel said that the Selectboard should at least then fill the last vacancy. The Selectboard agreed
42 and authorized a reopening of the recruitment to get more applicants for either a July 15th or August 5th
43 interview. Ms. Lucht announced that if anyone was interested in the Planning Commission they could
44 also attend the July 11th Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Heston clarified that only new candidates
45 would be required to do an interview.

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47 Ms. Lord offered a motion to appoint Ann Cousins to the Planning Commission and was seconded by
48 Mr. Granda and the motion carried 5-0.

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Governance Committee

The Manager explained that the board had selected two members for this: Rick Barrett and Wright Preston. Two other members had volunteered: Angela Cote and Jon Kart.

Angela Cote was asked why she was interested in the Governance Committee. She said that this was her first opportunity to volunteer for the town. She said this was a strength since she had no preconceived notions about the outcome. She has been a public servant since her career began as an engineer, and then as a teacher. She had an opportunity to add to the discussion with her unique skillsets.

Ms. Lucht asked if she had the time to dedicate to the committee, and Ms. Cote said she did.

Mr. Granda said ever since she had ran for the same Selectboard seat he had wanted to her to serve as a volunteer in some capacity, and felt she would do well. He asked her if there was a conflict since her sister (Cara LaBounty) was a lister. Mr. Granda added that there was no special section in the ethics policy about this situation but her decisions would have an effect on a relative.

Ms. Cote said she could think for herself, but besides, the town does have precedent of accepting nepotism.

Mr. Yeates asked if she had any experience as a lister. Ms. Cote said she had some project management experience as an engineer and understood values.

Mr. Kart was invited to answer to his interest. Mr. Kart said that he had worked with the last incarnation of the Governance Committee and enjoyed the experience. He discussed the delinquent tax collector issue at that time, and the solution had to be focused on how best to help the town.

Ms. Lucht asked if Mr. Kart had the time commitment, and he said he did. Mr. Granda asked if his work was related to any lister and Mr. Kart said no. Mr. Granda asked if he had worked with them, and Mr. Kart said he was familiar from his days on the Selectboard. He said he had worked with Mary on the Selectboard and they had disagreements but tended to agree on things more than not.

Mr. Yeates asked if he had ever been a lister, and Mr. Kart said no. Ms. Lord asked if he was a developer and Mr. Kart said no.

Mr. Yeates said there was interest from two individuals for the final spot, and said we should appoint these four and reserve the fifth for the next meeting.

Mr. Yeates offered a motion to appoint Ms. Cote, Mr. Kart, Mr. Barrett and Mr. Preston to the Governance Committee and was seconded by Mr. Granda. The motion carried 5-0.

The Manager asked about the vacancy on the Water Commission. Ms. Lucht said that a recruitment should be opened up and discussed at the next Selectboard meeting. Mr. Granda said that Bard Hill was interested but not present this evening.

3. Ordinances for Second Reading

Ordinance 2013-01 Amending the Traffic Ordinance

1 The Manager read Ordinance 2013-01 Amending the Traffic Ordinance. Ordinance 2013-01 would
2 amend the Traffic Ordinance to prohibit parking on Railroad Street, parts of Wes White Hill and
3 provide for an appeal procedure for parking tickets. Ms. Lucht offered a motion to open the public
4 hearing for Ordinance 2013-01 and was seconded by Ms. Lord and the motion carried 5-0.
5

6 Mr. Fausel said that the town's open spaces lacked good places to park. It seemed like the Huntington
7 River was a tremendous resource and limiting parking was bad. If safety, inconvenience or other
8 reasons were issues then alternative parking needed to be found.
9

10 The Manager explained why Wes White Hill was added. Mr. Fausel said he understood the concerns
11 but felt the town should do more for people's benefit, including adding parking.
12

13 Mr. Granda agreed and said he recognized the need for public parking in the Jonesville area. He asked
14 if this could be incorporated into the old Bombardier parcel?
15

16 Mary Houle said that the town paid \$5,000 for engineering and \$85,000 to assist with the land
17 purchase and no parking was offered.
18

19 Jon Kart said that the highest land on the site was also a septic field for the house across the street.
20 The issue was trespassing and not how people park.
21

22 Mr. Fausel said that parking in that area was disappearing.
23

24 Ms. Lucht said that the crowded parking was negatively affecting residents' lives. Mr. Granda said
25 that this didn't negate the issue, but the town needed to identify parking.
26

27 There was some discussion about eliminating #18 from the ordinance. Ms. Heston reminded everyone
28 that several residents had been here the previous meeting. There was some discussion.
29

30 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2013-01 and was seconded by
31 Mr. Yeates. The motion carried 5-0.
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33 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-01 as written and was seconded by Mr. Yeates
34 and the motion carried 5-0.
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36 **4. Other Business**

37 Ammonia Update

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40 The Manager explained that a company had been retained by the owner of the creamery to dispose of
41 the ammonia. The contract was with Environmental Products and Services out of Burlington. The
42 contract had three price options depending on the outcome of an assessment. They wished to complete
43 the contract by the end of the week, however, the Manager was not aware of any work being done at
44 the moment. Discussion followed. It was agreed to allow the contractor some time to complete the
45 work before additional steps were taken.
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47 FY2014 Capital Plan Review

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49 The Manager explained that this wasn't the start of the discussion, but an introduction to the issue.
50 The Capital Plan was done every year and what was provided to the Selectboard was last year's plan.

1 The Manager asked that the plan be reviewed and guidance given to staff for the development of the
2 new plan, prior to the start of the FY2015 budget.

3
4 Ms. Lucht asked if the subject of some town sharing in water capital costs could be discussed here.
5 The Manager felt that it would be a good way to open the discussion, while discussing the various
6 necessary projects.

7 8 High Risk Rural Roads Grant Award

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10 The Manager explained that this was a State grant, managed by the Regional Planning Commission,
11 that updated signage on various rural roads that met certain criteria. The RPC indicated that Wes
12 White Hill qualified for this grant, and the State would manage the project. The town just needed to
13 agree to accept the award and agree to provide ongoing maintenance of the signage installed.

14
15 The Selectboard agreed, and consented to authorize the Manager to sign the agreement for the grant.

16 17 FY2014 Park and Ride Grant Program

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19 Ms. Lord explained that the State's Park and Ride program coordinator, Wayne Davis, had come to a
20 meeting of the Richmond Economic Development Committee and spoke about the program. The
21 REDC was interested to learn more, however, it has been decided that this wasn't the right program
22 for Richmond at this time. In the future, another site may be selected and the grant may be right at that
23 time.

24
25 There was some discussion. Mary Houle said that if you don't have formal reserved spaces it would
26 defeat the goals of the program. Angela Cote said that the parking lot on Depot Street was sold as a
27 \$100,000 project, and we shouldn't try and exceed that amount. Ms. Heston agreed there was no
28 initiative to move on this grant at this time.

29 30 Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2013

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32 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2013 as amended with minor edits, and
33 was seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 5-0.

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35 It was noted that the minutes of June 24th had been under review by the town attorney as to the health
36 order and were not ready for this meeting.

37 38 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

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40 Ms. Lord reported that the Economic Development Committee was focusing on the Depot Street
41 Parking Lot and creamery parcel.

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43 The Manager noted the department reports and the financial report. The Manager reported that the
44 recent flooding had caused considerable damage to town roads and the Highway Department had
45 worked much overtime getting things back together. The Manager thanked them for their hard work.
46 The costs were over \$75,000 at this point.

47
48 The Manager also reported that he attended a court hearing that day on the Bordeaux matter. The
49 judge authorized an order that allowed the Town to enter the property to clean it up. This was
50 expected to happen some time in August.

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 2 The Manager also explained that the Planning Commission had reviewed the AT&T request to
 3 improve the cell site at the Verburg Farm. The Planning Commission found the application consistent
 4 with the Town Plan and had signed a letter from the attorney. The attorney had requested that the
 5 Selectboard sign also. Mr. Yeates asked why this had to be signed, and if our attorney had reviewed
 6 the letter. The Manager said that our attorney did not review the letter. There was discussion. It was
 7 agreed that the Manager would send a letter from the Selectboard stating that the Town did not intend
 8 to object to their Public Service Board application.

9
 10 The Manager also presented the tax rate, which had been recently calculated. The Grand List value
 11 was over the estimated value posted at Town Meeting, which meant that the approved tax increase was
 12 somewhat less. The tax rates were:

	TOWN OF RICHMOND	
	TAX RATE	
	for	
	2013-2014	
19	TAX DOLLARS TO BE RAISED	TAX RATE
21	Municipal and Highway Fund	\$2,776,354 \$0.6276
23	TOTAL	\$2,776,354 \$0.6276

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 25
 26 Calculations based on a Grand List value of: \$4,423,972

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 28 TOTAL APPROVED MUNICIPAL TAX RATE: \$0.6276

29
 30 The Manager noted that the school’s tax rate had risen by over ten cents, however, the municipal rate
 31 was the responsibility of the Selectboard to approve.

32
 33 Mr. Granda offered a motion to approve the Municipal Tax Rate and was seconded by Ms. Lucht and
 34 the motion carried 5-0.

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 36 Mr. Granda asked how the Town Center Heat project was coming. The Manager said that work was
 37 progressing. They had removed the old ducts and were working on installing the new equipment.

38
 39 There was a discussion on the bill warrant, and the Water and Sewer warrant. The Manager asked if
 40 the Selectboard members of the Water Commission would be willing to sign the Water and Sewer
 41 warrant, but Ms. Lucht said that the meeting was not warned as such. It was again noted that there
 42 was no quorum due to absences for the next Water Commission meeting. Hopefully someone would
 43 be appointed by then.

44
 45 **5. Adjourn**

46 Motion by Ms. Lord to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Granda. So voted.